

WHEREAS; he disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as part of our rich diversity as a state, country, and world, yet the disability community remains underrepresented in literary works; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that the root cause of this underrepresentation is not the presence of a medical condition within an individual, but rather the absence within society of a welcoming, supporting environment for all, underscoring the importance of inclusion; and

WHEREAS; there is a limited awareness of disability inclusion in literature, and the burden of raising awareness all too often falls on those impacted by disabilities, either directly or indirectly; and

WHEREAS; equitable experiences and full inclusion are a matter of social justice, and creating equitable, inclusive environments in every corner of society—including the literary world—is the shared responsibility of everyone; and

WHEREAS; Disability Book Week aims to increase awareness and inclusion of authors with disabilities and books featuring characters with disabilities, as well as support literacy efforts that benefit individuals with disabilities and provide opportunities for all people to be able to identify with and see themselves represented in published literary works; and

WHEREAS; we must recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives, understand the barriers presented to individuals with disabilities in our society, and take action to create ways to include everyone, especially those with disabilities, in all aspects of life; and

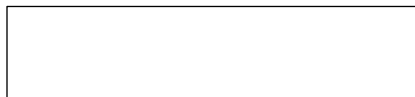
WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the countless talents, experiences, and contributions of individuals with disabilities to the literary world and encourages schools, libraries, and the general public to raise awareness of the underrepresentation of the disability community in literature;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 23-29, 2022, as

## **DISABILITY BOOK WEEK**


throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State